

Application No. 10/580,890  
Amendment Dated: October 5, 2009  
Reply to Office Action Dated September 4, 2009

Remarks

Claims 1-15 are pending.

Claims 1-15 are subjected to restriction requirement.

Claim 1 is amended.

Claims 7-15 are cancelled.

Claims 1-6 are submitted herein for review.

No new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has subjected claims 1-15 to a restriction requirement indicating that claims 1-6 (GROUP I), claims 7-8 (GROUP II); and claims 9-15 (GROUP III) are each drawn to patentable distinct inventions.

Applicants have cancelled claims 7-15 and request to continue prosecution on the merits on GROUP I, namely claims 1-6.

Separately, Applicants have amended claim 1 and request that claim 1, proceed to substantive review on the merits as amended herein.

Also, Applicants note that Ohzuku et al. (U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0054251) was cited by the Examiner solely in support of the showing of the restriction requirement and not as a substantive prior art rejection of the claims. As such, Applicants have not substantively responded to the Ohzuku et al. reference herein. Applicants reserve the right to respond substantively to the Ohzuku reference or other prior art reference(s) that may be cited in future actions.

Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-6 are in condition for allowance, the

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earliest possible notice of which is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner feels that an interview would facilitate the prosecution of this Application he is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Dated: October 5, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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